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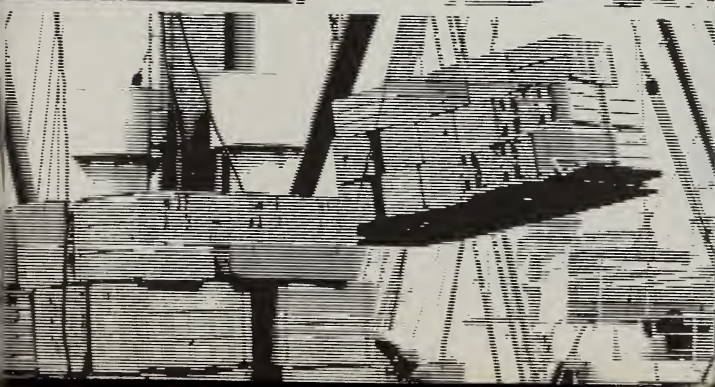
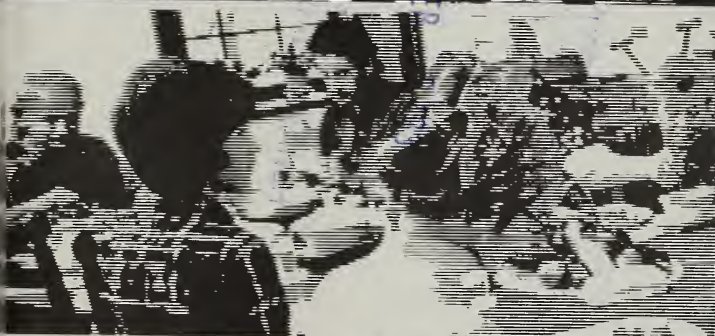
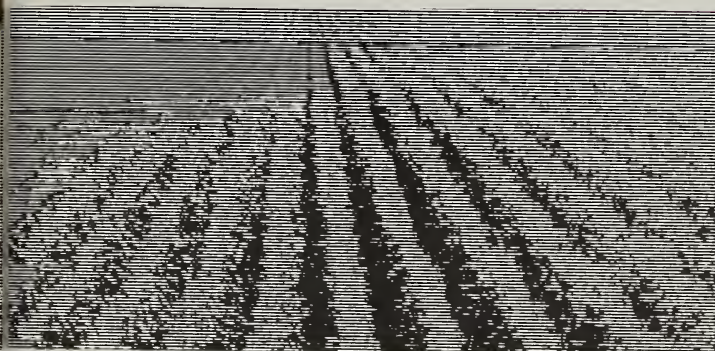
Ag 84 P 80

Department of Agriculture

How it
serves people
on the FARM,
and in the
COMMUNITY,
NATION, AND
WORLD

PA 824
United
States
Department of
Agriculture

PA-824



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USDA'S BROAD RESPONSIBILITIES

Your U.S. Department of Agriculture serves all of us every day. It works to improve farm income, to assure consumers of an adequate food supply at reasonable prices, and to expand overseas markets for U.S. farm products.

The Department works to safeguard the wholesomeness of our food supply through continuous inspection of food processing plants, and assures food quality through voluntary food grading services.

Through nutrition education, USDA helps consumers choose nourishing foods and get the most for their food dollars. It also helps millions of Americans enjoy better diets through food assistance programs.

The Department's widespread research makes a significant contribution to our standard of living. The research covers food and nutrition, animal disease and pest control, crop production, marketing and the use of agricultural products, food safety, and environmental quality. Directly or indirectly, the findings from such research benefit all Americans.

USDA protects the environment by helping farmers and other rural landowners conserve energy, soil, water, and forest resources; it also helps developing countries improve their food production. USDA programs in the fields of rural development, housing assistance, and conservation are key elements in carrying out national growth policies.

HOW IT STARTED

USDA was created in 1862 by an act passed by Congress and signed into law by President Abraham Lincoln. A little more than 25 years later, USDA became the eighth executive Department to achieve Cabinet rank. In the early days, the Department served a population engaged primarily in agriculture as a livelihood. A farmer in Lincoln's time produced only enough farm products to supply himself and three or four others.

Today's Department serves a Nation in

which less than four percent of the population lives on farms—a Nation in which an agricultural worker provides food and fiber for himself and 58 others.

RELATIONSHIP TO LAND-GRANT COLLEGES

In 1862 Congress passed the Morrill Act, establishing the system of “land-grant” colleges in the Nation. The act donated 11 million acres of public lands to the States and territories to provide colleges to support the agricultural and mechanical arts.

But because of racial separation in the South, blacks were not permitted to attend the new institutions. Following the Civil War, however, a number of black institutions similar to the white land-grant schools were established in Southern States, but were given only limited support by the States.

To overcome this problem, Congress passed the Second Morrill Act, in 1890, specifically to support the black land-grant schools. Thus, the schools are referred to as the “1890 institutions.” In addition, those Southern States which did not have a black land-grant school at the time each established one under the second Morrill Act.

Today, there are 16 “1890 institutions” plus Tuskegee Institute, as well as the 71 other land-grant colleges in the 50 States, Puerto Rico, Guam, the Virgin Islands, and the District of Columbia.

In 1887 Congress authorized an agricultural experiment station in each State and territory. In 1914 it established the Cooperative Extension Service for each State to spread the findings of agricultural and home economics research to farmers and the general public.

These acts were followed by others to strengthen college teaching, experimental, and Extension activities of the States. The land-grant colleges and experiment stations in cooperation with the Department have made American agriculture the most productive in the world, and the consumer’s food supply one of the least expensive as a proportion of disposable income.

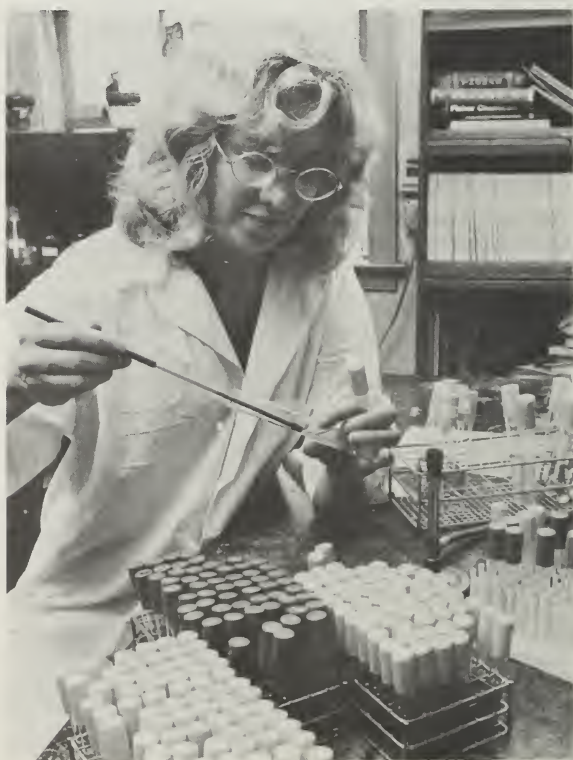
ACTIVITIES OF USDA

Research

USDA works closely on research with State experiment stations, State departments of agriculture, schools of forestry, farmer cooperatives, and other public and private agencies. It administers Federal grant funds voted by Congress for research in State facilities.

USDA's *Science and Education Administration* (SEA), organized in 1977, consolidates activities in research, Extension, cooperative work with the States, and library and teaching services. It includes a new Human Nutrition Center, an Integrated Pest Management Program, a Competitive Grants Program, and teaching activities transferred from the Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

SEA is designed to coordinate and improve the effectiveness of research, Extension, and teaching in the food and agricultural sciences



and to make better use of technical information resources. It also permits USDA personnel to work closely with other Federal agencies and involve a wider group of people and organizations in the study and solution of problems.

The SEA research arm continues the work of the former Agricultural Research Service, concentrating on basic, applied, and developmental research in the fields of livestock; plants; soil, water, and air quality; energy; processing; storage and distribution efficiency; food and nutrition; international development; and agriculturally related health hazards, including food safety. Special attention is given to high-priority programs of national importance, such as human nutrition and integrated pest management.

SEA's Extension unit continues the development of a comprehensive system to assist farmers, processors, handlers, farm families, and communities and consumers in general in applying the results of food and agricultural research. Major areas include the more efficient production and marketing of agricultural products, improved family living—including nutrition, 4-H youth development, and rural development. The unit also carries out innovative and special programs and projects, including the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program.

The cooperative research unit of SEA continues to administer Federal formula and grant funds to land-grant colleges and universities of 1862 and 1890, State agricultural experiment stations, schools of forestry, colleges, universities, and other research institutions and organizations. The unit also works to improve coordination of research, Extension, and teaching among all Federal and non-Federal cooperators; and assists State experiment stations, land-grant colleges, and USDA agencies in planning and coordinating scientific research programs.

SEA's Human Nutrition Center is the primary USDA unit conducting basic research on nutritional needs and the nutrient composition of specific foods. In addition to administering

funds and directing research, it will provide leadership for coordinated efforts in research, Extension, and teaching, both nationally and internationally. Food consumption surveys will provide dietary guidance and information needed by consumers and by Federal, State, and local agencies administering food and nutrition programs.

Through its Competitive Grants Program, SEA conducts additional basic research in areas of high national priority. Initially the focus will be on plant sciences as they relate to food production and on human nutrition. In the plant sciences area, emphasis will be on photosynthetic efficiency, biological nitrogen fixation, cellular and genetic engineering of plants, and plant protection studies focusing on biological stresses placed on plants by insects, weeds, nematodes, viruses, bacteria, and fungi. In the field of human nutrition, research will be supported in the general areas of human requirements for nutrients necessary for optimum growth and well-being, and factors affecting food preferences and habits.

Qualified scientists in the Federal Government, colleges and universities (both public and private), State agricultural experiment stations, and private organizations or corporations may submit research proposals.

With the passage of the Food and Agriculture Act of 1977, SEA—through its Technical Information Systems (TIS)—has given greater prominence to gathering and transferring technical information to a broader public. The system also integrates more fully library and information activities with research, Extension, and teaching programs.

The cornerstone of this new system is the National Agricultural Library which houses the world's largest collection of printed materials on agriculture and related sciences. The library contains over 1.5 million volumes on agriculture, biology, chemistry, nutrition, horticulture, and other subjects supporting agriculture.

TIS is comprised of two other components: the Agricultural Libraries Information Network

and the Automated Agricultural Information Systems. All three units interact to provide an expanded system for collecting and disseminating technical information on agricultural research and development. The information is distributed to scientists and technicians working on Federal-State agricultural research, personnel in non-land grant institutions, private industry, government agencies, and other segments of the public in need of this specialized knowledge.

SEA's integrated pest management and pesticide impact assessment programs are aimed at reducing chemicals in the environment and at cutting the cost of production for farmers. Under the new agency, pest management technology will be available to more farmers, ranchers, and homeowners.

Another USDA agency, the *Forest Service* (FS)—under authority of the McSweeney-McNary Forestry Research Act—carries on forestry research through eight regional forest and range experiment stations, the Forest Products Laboratory, and the Institute of Tropical Forestry.



This research enables foresters to improve the resource management and utilization of the National Forest System and other publicly administered lands as well as privately owned forest lands, including small woodland properties. Research covers problems in five fields: timber, watersheds, forage, wildlife habitat, and recreation. Basic research deals with protection of these resources from fire, insects, diseases, and other natural destructive agents. Still other research projects cover application of genetics, fertilization, and other techniques to increase forest growth; timber harvest engineering leading to improved methods of tree removal and road construction; better forest products utilization; forest economics and forest product marketing; and national, regional, and State timber resources inventories.

The inventories, made periodically, determine acreage of forest lands and volumes and quality of timber; trends in growth and harvest; and projections of future supply, demand, and use.

Education

The teaching unit, which is a part of SEA, leads USDA activities in the area of education. The Department's role in relation to higher education is studied and decisions made to support and promote agricultural teaching. Action is planned to increase further the development and better utilization of trained workers in the years ahead. The teaching staff administers the Bankhead-Jones funds recently transferred to USDA from HEW (formula funds for support of undergraduate instruction in 1862 and 1890 land-grant universities). This unit also develops guidelines for any additional teaching and educational programs the Department may establish.

Information

Each USDA agency provides information about its work to farmers, industry, and consumers. The *Office of Governmental and Public Affairs* (GPA) plans, develops, and executes Departmental information programs;

and coordinates internal agency activities pertaining to the following:

Publications, both technical and popular, which present the results of research and information about USDA regulatory and service programs.

Current information, which includes press, radio, and television materials, and special reports.

Visuals, including exhibits, photographs, graphics, and motion pictures.

GPA also serves as liaison for information requested by Congress and other branches of government, as well as the general public, on farm and consumer-related programs. GPA also publishes the Yearbook of Agriculture, which contains a wide variety of articles on a single theme. These articles are prepared by researchers, specialists, and other authorities in agriculture.

Public Participation

The Department is committed to improving public involvement in its decisionmaking processes. Public participation is an invaluable source of information for decisionmakers on attitudes and alternatives to proposed programs. An open decision process assures the public that Federal Government actions are properly conducted.

A focus for public participation was established in the Office of Budget, Planning and Evaluation to review and coordinate agency activities to assure improved public participation. Agencies proposing significant actions must provide a specific plan for effective notice to and opportunity for timely comment from the public.

Energy

The *Office of Energy* (OE) provides leadership and focus to USDA's energy matters, including energy policies, strategies and programs, and the allocation of scarce energy resources. OE represents the Department on energy matters and coordinates USDA programs to meet energy-related goals. OE also maintains contact with Members of Congress and public interest groups in the

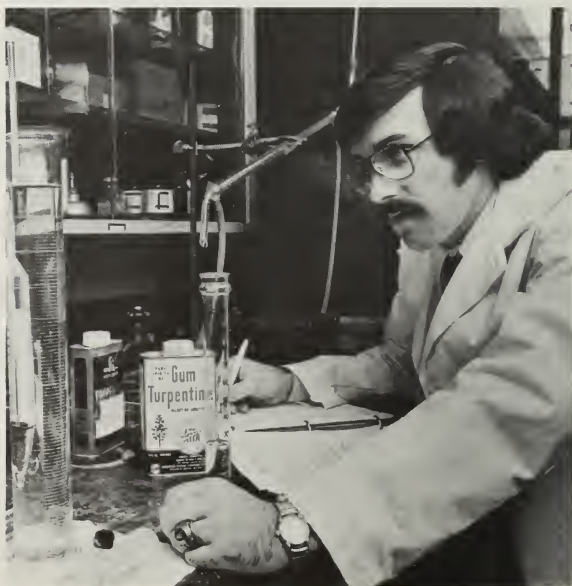
development of legislative energy proposals. Current activities of the agency include implementation of the agricultural priority provisions of the Natural Gas Policy Act of 1978, implementation of the fuel alcohol and industrial hydrocarbon program of the 1977 Food and Agriculture Act, and coordination of USDA activities related to fuel allocation for farmers and rural residents.

Marketing Services

The *Agricultural Marketing Service* (AMS) helps the private marketing system move food and other farm products from producer to consumer quickly and efficiently, with fairness to all.

AMS establishes standards for grades indicating the quality of cotton, tobacco, spirits of turpentine and rosin, and feeder cattle and pigs. It also provides grading services for all the above except feeder animals.

AMS collects market news daily on various kinds and qualities of agricultural products, including their prices and movement in major markets. It helps to strengthen farm income and expand the market for farm products through programs that encourage consumption of foods in temporary overabundance.



It also promotes fair play in marketing through administration of the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act, the U.S. Warehouse Act, the Federal Seed Act, the Plant Variety Protection Act, and the Agricultural Fair Practices Act.

Through marketing agreements and orders, AMS puts a floor under prices received by farmers for milk and helps to regulate the volume or quality of fruits and vegetables going to market. The agency also assists producers in promulgating commodity research and promotion programs authorized by Congress, and then monitors activities of the boards appointed to administer the programs. Many AMS programs are carried out in cooperation with State agencies.

Consumers indirectly benefit from many AMS programs, since they are designed to assure adequate, dependable supplies of food and other farm products.

AMS administers the Packers and Stockyards Act, which helps maintain free and open competition in the marketing of the Nation's livestock, poultry, and meat production.

The P&S Act prohibits unfair, deceptive, discriminatory, and monopolistic marketing practices which would deprive the farmer of a fair price for his product, deprive the marketer of a reasonable profit for his services, and would unduly affect consumer prices for meat and poultry.

The *Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service* (APHIS) helps to safeguard the health and quality of the Nation's agricultural animals and plants.

Protection of our farm products begins at the ports of entry, where APHIS maintains close surveillance of all animal and plant imports, cargoes, and passengers' baggage to prevent the entry of anything that might harbor a foreign pest or disease of animals and plants.

APHIS cooperates with the States and the agricultural industry to eradicate and control animal diseases of national importance. In addition the agency helps guard all Americans from those diseases which can be transmitted

from animals to man.

The agency also cooperates with the States and industry to control or eradicate native or alien pests and diseases of plants which pose an interstate menace. Close surveillance is maintained nationwide of pest infestations to identify potential problems and organize effective control programs.

Typical of these cooperative activities are the current campaigns to control the gypsy moth, which is capable of defoliating shade trees and entire forests; the screwworm, a flesh-eating menace of livestock, wildlife, and all other warm-blooded animals; and the cereal leaf beetle, which can cause severe damage to small grains.



APHIS also licenses the manufacturers and marketers of veterinary biologics to ensure the purity and effectiveness of these products. In its role as a regulatory agency, it enforces the laws requiring humane treatment of dogs, cats, and other small animals used for research; zoo animals and animals used in exhibitions; and horses.

The *Federal Grain Inspection Service* (FGIS) establishes official U.S. standards for grain and administers a nationwide system of official grain inspection to certify the grades. FGIS also regulates the weighing of all grain entering or leaving any export facility in the United States. All substantial exporters of U.S. grain are required to register with FGIS and provide agency officials with information about company ownership, management, control, and locations.



The U.S. Grain Standards Act of 1976, under which FGIS was established, requires that all U.S. grain destined for export, with some exceptions, undergo inspection as it is loaded aboard ships. Export grain is inspected by FGIS or by State departments of agriculture under authority by FGIS. Domestic grain marketed at inland locations is inspected under FGIS supervision by State departments of agriculture and private firms.

Transportation

The *Office of Transportation* (OT), established in 1978 through consolidation of existing transportation programs, develops the Department's transportation policies, and concentrates on solving some of the major transportation issues facing rural areas, particularly those related to the deterioration of rural roads and bridges.

The agency provides technical assistance, information, and economic analyses to agricultural producers, shippers, and carriers; and administers research and programs designed to improve agricultural marketing. OT also represents the agricultural community before Federal regulatory agencies.

Food and Consumer Services

The *Food Safety and Quality Service* (FSQS) helps assure the wholesomeness of meat, poultry, eggs, and egg products through its inspection programs. It facilitates trade in food products and helps consumers choose the quality of product they wish through its grading services. FSQS was established in March 1977 through a consolidation of services previously conducted under AMS and APHIS.

The agency administers the Federal Meat Inspection Act and the Poultry Products Inspection Act, which provide for uniform Federal-State inspection of all meat and poultry products. Inspection regulations require advance approval of the construction and equipment of plants operating in interstate commerce; inspection of animals and birds before, during, and after slaughter; continuous inspection of all processing operations, and advance approval of labels for meat and poultry products.

The inspection program includes surveillance to guard against harmful bacteria and residues in meat and poultry products, and monitoring inspection in foreign plants handling meat and poultry for export to the United States.

Under the inspection acts, the agency assists State inspection programs in plants dealing in intrastate trade, or assumes inspection in States where the programs are not equal to Federal inspection.

FSQS also establishes standards of identity or content for meat and poultry products.

Wholesomeness of egg products is safeguarded through continuous inspection in plants processing liquid, frozen, or dried egg products. In addition, FSQS monitors egg handlers and hatcheries to insure proper disposal of eggs that might contain harmful bacteria.

The agency provides grading services and establishes U.S. grade standards for meat; poultry; eggs; dairy products; and fresh, frozen, canned, and dried fruits and vegetables. Grading services are available on request and for a fee, and are often provided in cooperation with State departments of agriculture. In a related service, FSQS checks food purchases



to make sure that they meet the contract specifications agreed to by individual firms.

The agency also purchases food for distribution through programs of the Food and Nutrition Service.

The *Food and Nutrition Service* (FNS) administers a number of Federal-State programs to provide food assistance to those in need. The agency cooperates with State and local welfare agencies in administering the Food Stamp Program, which enables low-income families to purchase a greater variety of food to improve their diets. Several child nutrition programs help provide food to children in public and nonprofit private schools, family day-care centers, and child-care institutions. During extended vacation periods, this help is available through recreation programs and residential summer camps serving children from low-income areas. The Special Supplemental Food Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) provides specific nutritious food supplements to pregnant and nursing women,



as well as children up to 5 years of age, who are found to be "at nutritional risk" because of poor diet or low income. The Food Distribution Program donates food to various food program outlets—schools, charitable institutions, nutrition programs for the elderly, summer camps, disaster relief agencies, and needy family programs on some Indian reservations.

Trade and Aid

The *Foreign Agricultural Service* (FAS) is responsible for expanding foreign markets for U.S. agricultural products, analyzing and reporting developments in world agricultural production and trade, and representing the interests of U.S. agriculture in trade negotiations and at international forums related to food and agriculture. FAS maintains attaches in more than 60 countries to provide a constant flow of agricultural information from around the world.

The *Office of the General Sales Manager* (OGSM) administers Public Law 480 (Food for Peace), which deals with concessional credit of agricultural commodities and food donations to friendly foreign countries. OGSM also administers the Commodity Credit Corporation's export sales program, which is based upon short-term credit arrangements.

OGSM is also responsible for reporting sales and shipments of U.S. farm products by American exporters.

The well-being and productivity of developing nations are vital to America's role in world agricultural trade, and the Department is an incomparable source of agricultural knowledge and experience.

The *Office of International Cooperation and Development* (OICD) was established in 1978 to strengthen the Department's role in agricultural technical assistance and training for developing countries. In addition, the office coordinates USDA activities with those of international organizations concerned with food, agriculture, and economic development. The agency also coordinates international scientific exchanges undertaken by the Department.

Economics

The *World Food and Agricultural Outlook and Situation Board* (WFAOSB) was created in 1977 to coordinate USDA analyses on the agricultural situation in the United States and throughout the world. Need for this organization emerged when an era of stable world food prices and supplies gave way to extreme price fluctuations and food shortages. It became essential for the Department to have accurate, objective, and timely information on world events that could affect the U.S. agricultural system.

The board ensures a constant flow of vital information to policymakers and the public. Among the board's responsibilities is leadership of USDA interagency committees on each of the major commodities. These committees determine the Department's official estimates on commodity outlook, including forecasts of foreign and domestic agricultural production and trade, U.S. farm prices, farm income, and food prices. Another major responsibility of the board involves monitoring the weather—the largest, most uncertain variable in the agricultural outlook formula. In cooperation with the Commerce Department, the board maintains a Joint Agricultural Weather Facility to anticipate and monitor global weather patterns which aid experts in interpreting the probable impact of weather on crop production.

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service (ESCS) collects and analyzes domestic and international agriculture—related information. It conducts research related to food and nutrition, cooperatives, natural resources, and rural development. It provides technical assistance to agricultural cooperatives.

Work is conducted in three program areas, as indicated by the agency's name.

Economic activities involve projecting supply, demand, and use of crops and livestock; assessing the impact of foreign agricultural developments on U.S. foreign agricultural trade; analyzing the impact on food production of policies concerning the use,

conservation, and development of natural resources; examining rural population, employment, housing trends, and economic adjustment problems; and documenting and measuring the performance of the agricultural industry as an aid to creating food and fiber policies.

Statistics are gathered and published about the Nation's crops, livestock, poultry, dairy products, prices, labor, and related agricultural subjects. Local information about acreage, yields, production, and weather is issued by 44 field offices serving the 50 States.

Program activities pertaining to co-ops include compiling national statistics on farmer cooperatives; providing technical assistance on cooperative organization and operations, and conducting research on financial, organizational, legal, and economic aspects of cooperatives.

Environment and Natural Resources

USDA programs help protect the Nation's ecological, cultural, and historic heritage, and reflect a sensitivity to the principle that each generation is a trustee of the environment for succeeding generations.

Among the agencies charged with protecting the environment is the newly created *Office of Environmental Quality* (OEQ). Established in 1979, OEQ initiates, coordinates, and monitors USDA policies related to the protection of the environment and natural resources.

Specifically, OEQ develops Department procedures for implementing the National Environmental Policy Act which encourages harmony between people and their environment. The act also requires Federal agencies to prepare environmental impact statements on actions which may have significant adverse effect on the environment.

In addition to implementing other legislation, OEQ assists in implementing land use policy for protecting important agricultural, forest, and range lands, in monitoring the management of floodplains and wetlands, and in

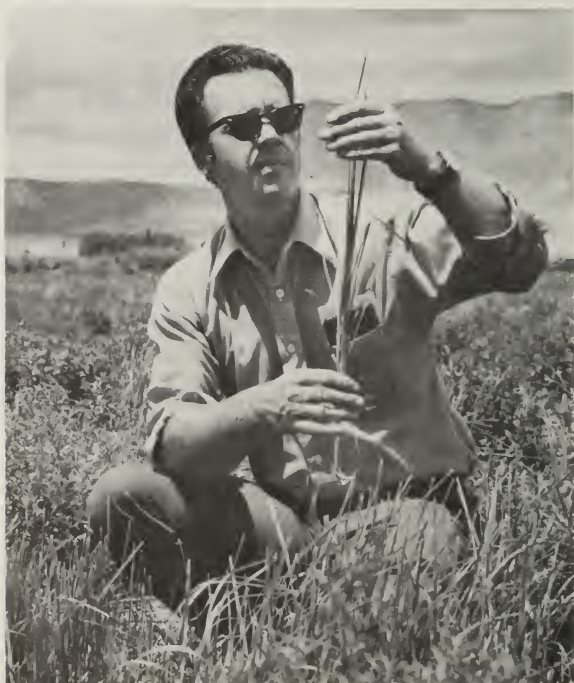
coordinating USDA's integrated pest management program.

OEQ also serves as the primary USDA contact with the President's Council on Environmental Quality, and the Environmental Protection Agency.

The *Soil Conservation Service*(SCS) develops and carries out a national conservation program through more than 2,950 local conservation districts with 2.3 million cooperating landowners and operators. The agency provides onsite technical assistance to landowners and operators in inventorying and assessing their soil, water, and plant resources and in planning and applying land-use and conservation treatments.

The agency also provides leadership for watershed projects, the Great Plains conservation program, resource conservation and development projects, recreation enterprises, investigations of river basins, and the National Inventory of Soil and Water Conservation Needs.

In addition, SCS administers the Federal part of the National Cooperative Soil Survey, and



coordinates snow surveys to help in forecasting water supplies in the Western States. SCS also supports the national agricultural conservation program by offering technical assistance whenever needed.

In recent years, the services of SCS specialists have been used more and more by State, county, and local governments; planning and zoning agencies; and other institutions and organizations in rapidly developing areas to insure proper land and water use and management.

These services take the form of assistance to nonfarm groups in such activities as the provision of municipal and industrial water supplies, highway construction, housing developments, recreation facilities, sanitary landfills, school site developments, and surface mine reclamation.

The *Forest Service* (FS) is dedicated to the principles of multiple-use management, for sustained yields, of the Nation's renewable forest resources. It provides services to a growing Nation through management of 187 million acres of the National Forest System; cooperation with State foresters, private forest owners, wood processors, and private and public agencies; and nationwide forestry research that directly or indirectly supports all management and cooperative efforts.

Forest Service programs are concerned with a variety of activities. They include timber production, outdoor recreation, habitat for fish and wildlife, watershed protection, and livestock grazing. FS programs help prevent and suppress wildfires. They are concerned with wilderness management, forest engineering, land management planning, mining, land reclamation and reforestation, the marketing and utilization of forest products, resource surveys, urban forestry, and pollution.

In addition, FS is responsible for the control of forest insects and diseases, development of human resources through programs such as the Youth Conservation Corps, and for providing incentives (such as production and distribution of seedling planting stock) that

stimulate the proper management of State, county, municipal, and community forests.

Farm Programs

The *Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service* (ASCS) administers:

—Programs to maintain production of wheat, feed grains, and other crops at a level sufficient to satisfy market demand and to meet food and feed assistance commitments through purchases. ASCS also provides loan and price-support payments to program participants.

—The cotton program to assure adequate, but not excessive, supplies through purchases, and loan and price-support payments.

—Acreage allotments and marketing quotas, when applicable under law, for certain major crops to help keep supplies in line with demand.

—Programs for various other commodities specified by law and the management of commodity inventories.

—The National Wool Act (including provisions concerning mohair).

—The Dairy Program.

—Programs to help obtain adequate farm and commercial storage and drying equipment



for farm products.

—Cost-sharing projects (under the Agricultural Conservation Program) with farmers to initiate practices of enduring benefit with respect to needed soil, water, woodland, and wildlife conservation and pollution prevention and abatement; cost sharing with private landowners to plant trees and improve timber stands under the Forestry Incentives Program; payments to landowners along important migratory waterfowl flyways to preserve, restore, and improve nesting and breeding areas.

—Programs to assist farmers during natural disasters and other emergencies.

ASCS is assigned specific emergency preparedness responsibilities, and carries out Departmentwide defense coordinating activities, including the servicing of USDA, State and county emergency boards. Through its State county offices, ASCS conducts monitoring activities during periods of anticipated shortages of fuel, fertilizer, pesticides, and other key farm production items in order to prevent hardships.

The agency also assists the Food and Nutrition Service in the distribution of commodities through domestic channels, and cooperates with the Foreign Agricultural Service in making Government-held food stocks available for foreign assistance programs.

The *Commodity Credit Corporation* (CCC) with its \$20 billion borrowing authority finances the farm programs, domestic and export surplus commodity disposal, foreign assistance, storage activities, and related programs and operations of the Department, utilizing ASCS personnel.

The *Federal Crop Insurance Corporation* (FCIC) provides farmers with self-help, all-risk insurance that repays crop production costs when crops have been severely damaged by bad weather, insects, disease, and unavoidable natural causes. This keeps the rural economy going in those years when drought or another natural disaster cuts crop yields and leaves farmers with a short crop or

no crop to sell. FCIC protection is available in more than one-third of the Nation's farm counties. As farming becomes more of a credit operation, Federal Crop Insurance policies are becoming increasingly important as collateral for crop production loans.

Rural Development

Rural development is a cooperative process in which public agencies, private organizations, and individual citizens work together to improve community facilities and services and economic opportunities for people living in the towns and farming communities outside metropolitan America.

To accomplish this, the Department's program centers on *people building* (providing services and facilities needed to stimulate human development), *community facilities* (combining city conveniences with the advantages of country living), *environmental improvement* (protecting and improving our natural assets), and *economic development* (increasing farm and business investment to create jobs).

Under the Rural Development Act of 1972, USDA has responsibility for coordinating a nationwide rural development program utilizing services and resources of other Federal departments and agencies in cooperation with States and localities.

The Assistant Secretary for Rural Development of the Department is in charge of key programs contributing to rural development and also serves as chairman of the National Rural Development Committee. This group establishes policies, sets priorities, and coordinates programs of the Department which contribute to the development of rural areas.

USDA's role in a national rural development program is of critical importance. The Department is the central point for coordination and leadership in the Federal Government of activities benefiting rural communities. The Department also administers a wide variety of financial, technical, and educational services, that directly assist State

and local governments and citizens in developing community goals. These include:

Supervised credit for farming, conservation, home construction, public works, and business and industrial development—*Farmers Home Administration*.

Financial and technical assistance for public and cooperative electric and telephone facilities—*Rural Electrification Administration*.

Technical assistance to cooperative enterprises processing and marketing farm products and to other cooperatively owned, rural-based industries; research at the State and regional level on technical, economic, and social aspects of rural community improvement and project development in cooperation with State experiment stations; and educational programs to inform local officials and citizens of methods to improve their communities and solve basic problems related to community growth and environmental protection—*Science and Education Administration*.



Assistance to the States in promoting wise conservation and development of State, local, and private forestry resources which are critically important in the development of some rural areas; and management of the national forest lands for maximum benefit to all the people, with particular concern for the impact of national forest activities on the rural communities where they are located—*Forest Service*.

Financial, technical, and administrative assistance in the conservation and development of soil, water, and other natural resources in rural areas. This includes technical assistance in land-use planning and areawide resource conservation and development programs. It also includes financial assistance for a variety of basic measures to improve soil and water conservation and development—*Soil Conservation Service*.

Cost-sharing assistance to agricultural producers through annual and long-term agreements for soil and water resource conservation, and prevention or abatement of agriculture-related pollution—*Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service*.

Economic research on factors affecting rural development and natural resources, findings of which are used widely by Federal, State, and local officials engaged in rural development programs—*Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives Service*.

Many other agencies of the Department also contribute to various aspects of the rural development program in such fields as market development and food distribution to improve the diets of low-income rural people and others.

In each State there is a rural development committee composed of the Department's cooperating State agencies. In many States volunteer citizen groups are represented. These committees develop joint programs and activities within the State to use all appropriate Federal and State resources in rural development.

Credit

The *Farmers Home Administration* (FmHA) provides vital financial assistance to rural America through multibillion-dollar loan and grant programs. The agency approaches rural development through five major avenues: (1) Encouraging and supporting family farm ownership and operation to provide an economic and social base for rural society; (2) providing modest, but adequate, modern individual homes and rental apartments; (3) installing needed community facilities, community centers, streets, health services, and other needed amenities; (4) providing economic support to farmers affected by disaster; and (5) fostering economic development with loans for business and industrial enterprises.

More than 26 million rural people in 46 States benefit from electric and telephone services provided by systems financed through loans from the *Rural Electrification Administration*, the *Rural Telephone Bank*, and other lenders. REA's guarantee loan program makes available funds from non-REA sources to finance large-scale electric and telephone projects. These utility services are essential to farm productivity, rural business establishments, and are vital in furthering rural area development.

Emergency Programs

USDA defense and major natural disaster programs are coordinated through USDA State and county emergency boards as directed by an assistant to the Secretary. Those administering programs to feed people and to help farmers affected by floods, drought, and other natural disasters would use this experience to meet USDA responsibilities in the event of nuclear war. In the national defense program, USDA is responsible for food from the farm through the wholesale level, fire control in rural areas, and biological and chemical warfare defense for animals and crops.

HOW USDA IS ORGANIZED

Secretary

Deputy Secretary

Staff Assistants

Judicial Officer

Office of Energy

Office of the General Counsel

Office of Governmental and Public Affairs

Office of the Inspector General

Departmental Administration

Assistant Secretary for Administration

Board of Contract Appeals

Management Staff

Office of Administrative Law Judges

Office of Equal Opportunity

Office of Operations and Finance

Office of Personnel

Office of Safety and Health Management

Office of Small and Disadvantaged

Business Utilization

Economics, Policy Analysis and Budget

Director

Economics, Statistics, and Cooperatives
Service

Office of Budget, Planning and Evaluation

World Food and Agricultural Outlook and
Situation Board

International Affairs and Commodity Programs

Under Secretary

- Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service**
- Commodity Credit Corporation**
- Federal Crop Insurance Corporation**
- Foreign Agricultural Service**
- Office of the General Sales Manager**
- Office of International Cooperation and Development**

Food and Consumer Services

Assistant Secretary

- Food and Nutrition Service**
- Food Safety and Quality Service**

Marketing and Transportation Services

Assistant Secretary

- Agricultural Marketing Service**
- Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service**
- Federal Grain Inspection Service**
- Office of Transportation**

Rural Development

Assistant Secretary

- Farmers Home Administration**
- Rural Electrification Administration**
- Rural Telephone Bank**

Natural Resources and Environment

Assistant Secretary

- Forest Service**
- Office of Environmental Quality**
- Soil Conservation Service**

Science and Education

Director

- Science and Education Administration**

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